श्री लाजपत रायः सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो प्रोडक्ट लार्ज या स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज में बनती हैं और जिनको केन्द्र सरकार ने इन्सेंटिव देने का विचार किया है, उसमें क्या क्राइटैरिया रखा गया है, लार्ज स्केल या स्माल स्केल में जो बनती हैं उनको ही इन्सेंटिव दिया जाए और बाकी को न दिया जाए?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the Industry Ministry has been bifurcated, and the Department of Small Scale Industries is no longer with the Industry Ministry. There is a separate Minister for Small Scale Industries. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that, yesterday, the Governor of Reserve Bank announced the monetary policy wherein he has given a boost to the small scale industries. In the case of small-scale industries, banks have been allowed to waive the collateral requirement for loans for the present limit of Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs. So, this change that has been brought about will help them in raising loans easily. It is good for the SSI sector.

Retail marketing of petro-products

*506. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are allowing private and foreign oil companies to undertake retail marketing petrol/diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing foreign and private players in this sector; and

(c) in what manner the country is going to be benefited by this step?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government have laid down the guidelines vide its resolution dated 8th March, 2002 for granting of authorization to market

transportation fuels. *viz.* motor spirit, high speed diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel to the new entrants including the private sector.

(b) and (c) The decision of the Government to allow the private Oil Companies to market transportation fuels would facilitate attracting private capital and competition. This would help the Hydrocarbon Sector to be more internationally competitive and result in improved product standards and services, to the customers.

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the proposed investment in the prescribed areas such as oil exploration or production or refining or LPG pipeline or terminal production of hydrocarbon, etc., in the form of equity, at the proposed capital limit of Rs 2,000 crores, includes the bank guarantee or whether it is excluded from this. I would also like to know whether the proposed move is a part of the Hydrocarbon Vision 2025. If 'yes', what are the salient features of the Hydrocarbon Vision 2025? Part (b) of my supplementary, is whether it is true that the time-frame for private capital is fixed at 10 years. I believe, it is too long a period for so little an investment. I would like to know whether the Ministry is thinking of reducing this period.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, it is true that when we had published the Government Resolution on 8th March; we indicated that any company which wants to come into the marketing sector, they must invest or propose to invest to the extent of Rs. 2000 crores in infrastructural activities of the oil industry. Those who have not invested, they will have to give a bank guarantee to the tune of Rs. 500 crores; and on that basis, their proposals will be processed. I may also say, Sir, that for this purpose, a Bill namely the Petroleum Regulatory Bill, is being introduced in this Session. So the House can take into consideration that Bill also.

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Sir, my second supplementary is this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the service obligations stipulated for the new private and foreign companies for meeting the fuel requirements in remote and in uneconomic areas. The other point is, contrary to the oil companies claim that only two per cent of fuel in the country is not meeting

the prescribed standards, a report submitted by the Environment Protection and Control Authority to the Supreme Court indicates that as much as 26 per cent adulteration is taking place at the petrol pumps in the country. We also know that there is no credible mechanism to check adulteration. The report clearly says that the oil companies are not following the instructions prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards. How is the Ministry going to check adulteration that is likely to take place in private retail marketing outlets, on which the Government has no control?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, so far as marketing service obligations are concerned, we shall ensure that till the Bill becomes an Act, Petroleum Ministry will work as a regulator. In the marketing service obligations, we shall ensure that those who give their proposal that also includes the far-flug areas, remote areas and low service areas. So, their widespread proposal would be taken into consideration, as a matter of rule; and it would be ensured that customers get uninterrupted supply of all types of auto fuels. That is one aspect.

So far as adulteration is concerned, we are on the move. We have, in the Petroleum Ministry, a separate directorate known as Anti-Adulteration Directorate. The State Governments also, through the Essential Services act, can take action. We have also established separate mobile laboratories — now there are about 50 such laboratories all over India. These are the various methods by which we are trying to curb adulteration. It has been reduced, but I must admit that it goes on and it would be our endeavour to ensure that the customers get unadulterated fuel.

Restricted operations of airports in A.P.

*507. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airports in Andhra Pradesh which operate between sunrise to sunset only;

(b) what are the reasons therefor;